

Architectural Thesis

Designs

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Texts

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DESIGN FOR A LIBRARY

BY

CHARLES HOWARD KABLE

THESIS FOR DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE 1902



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THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Charles Howard Kable

ENTITLED Design for a Library

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture

C. G. Ricker

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture



The problem undertaken in this thesis was the design of a library building similar in style and plan to that of the modern library as developed by the generous gifts of Andrew Carnegie.

The general type of library building developed from that used during the Middle Ages is that of a large and lofty hall with shelving around it to the height of ten or twelve feet and above that a gallery or galleries with similar tiers of shelves. When more books had to be accommodated than the wall shelving permitted, more room was gained by placing the cases at

right angles to the walls, projecting some ten or twelve feet into the room. These formed alcoves and generally tables or desks for the readers were placed in them. In this manner the alcove system was developed. The opposite extreme is the stack system, a plan which provides simply for book storage or warehousing, in which the book cases are arranged in a separate room away from the readers. The walls are first shelved, generally with shelves deep enough to take the quarto or folio books; then, separate book cases, shelved on each side are placed at a distance of about three feet, at

right angles to the lighted side of the room.

There are many weak points in the alcove system which are greatly overcome by the stack system. Among the disadvantages are, the necessity of having locked doors on the cases to avoid the mutilation and theft of books, the greater inconvenience to attendants in checking out books, the extra cost for a more ornamental case, and in alcoves of five or six galleries high the great damage to books on the top tiers caused by the superfluous heat. But it has a decided advantage in placing the books directly before the

public, for reference purposes. So in modern library buildings the advantages of both are attained by using the stack system with the additional wall shelves placed in the reference rooms.

In calculating the total capacity of this library, volumes were considered as the mean number of books per linear foot of shelf, and nine shelves high for seven and one half feet stories, eight shelves high for seven foot stories.

The program of the problem assumed provided for the following rooms:-

Main Floor.		Seating Capacity	Area in sq. ft.
Reference Reading Room		92	1850
Childrens	" "	92	1850

Periodical Reading Room 57 -- 1150

Stack, 6 stories, total capacity = 1260

Cataloguer's Room - - - - 330

Librarian's Office - - - - 330

Delivery Space - - - - 460

Sufficient vaults are provided on this floor to satisfy the needs of the librarian's office, cataloguer's room and delivery space.

A small stairway from ordering and receiving room to cataloguer's office.

Facilities to be provided when needed.

Ground Floor.

Lecture Room - - - - 216 -- 1850

Art Exhibit Room - - - - 1850

Scripture Gallery - - - - 1100

Bicycle Room - - - - 144

Janitor's Office - - - - 144

Ordering and Receiving Room - - 330

Bindery and Work Room - - - 390

3 Storage Rooms, each - - - 150

2 Principal Toilet Rooms.

Second Floor.

	Area sq ft.
Historical Society	2150
Literary Society	650
Art Study, 2 rooms	{ 486
	{ 650
Director's Room	650
Special Study	650
Special Study	486

The plan developed into a rectangular building, three stories high, with a projection on either side, being perfectly symmetrical about both the transverse and longitudinal axes. The ground floor is given up to rooms for general use. The main floor of the library is first above this, being reached by a double flight of stairs situated in front of the entrance. The stack is continued throughout the three floors making six stack stories.

The main floor is given up to the children's room, reference reading room, periodical reading room, stack, a large working and delivery space, with rooms for staff and librarian. It was designed as far as possible to give immediate supervision from the loan desk.

The third floor is given up to society rooms, director's room, and special studies, which, it is supposed would be needed in a town, making use of a library of this size.

This building is to be constructed of fireproof materials throughout. Exterior work of a whitish sandstone; copper roof with skylights; outside doors, door and window casings painted a dark color.

The interior to be treated in a very attractive manner; floors laid with tile in running patterns; ceilings beamed and paneled; walls decorated in fresco colors.

Probable cost of building-





